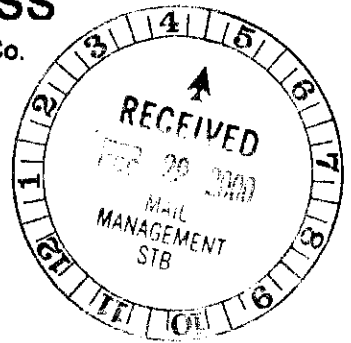




Multi-Temp Express

A Division of Martin-Brower of Canada Co.

197284



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

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1996-1997

Dear Sir:

Multi-Temp Express is a Division of Martin-Brower, the largest distributor to McDonald's Restaurants worldwide. We are major users of rail services in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination, or any merger for that matter, is good for shippers. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits.

Service, not timing, of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is the central issue for our company. Recent mergers have failed because of poor execution, not because of bad timing for mergers in the rail industry. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

We trust that the Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and to protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process.

Other railroads opposition to the use of the Surface Transportation Board process seems to be an effort to insulate themselves from competition rather than as a protection for shippers.

Regards,

Dan Davis
General Manager